FAQs about elections for students

- I'm a student living in York, should I register to vote here or at home?

Students are entitled to register at both their home address and their university address. Although it is an offence to vote more than once in a parliamentary election, you can vote in local elections at both of your addresses.

EXCEPT: if the your home address is in the same local authority area as your university address, for example if their parents’ home was in Poppleton and university address in Heslington, it would be an offence to vote twice in the both in the parliamentary and the City of York Council elections.

Visit the [http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/register-to-vote/students](http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk/register-to-vote/students) for more details

- I was registered in York at my room at the halls of residence and have now moved to a shared house. Do I need to re register at the house address?

Yes, you should re-register to vote every time you move house.

You are now able to change your registration details every time you move, and not just once a year. People can now register to vote online. If you wish to re-register please visit the [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)

- How do I check if my name is already on the Register of Electors?

We can only check addresses in York.

Please contact Electoral Services on 01904 551007 or email student.register@york.gov.uk and provide both the address and your name and one of the team will be able to check.

- I am a student in halls of residence, do I have to register myself or will my college register me?

Under the Individual Electoral Registration you must register yourself, your college or university can no longer do it automatically.
You can now register to vote online. If you wish to re-register please visit the [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) or download the form from this page and we will write and confirm when your name is added to the Register of Electors.

- **I don’t see the point in voting so why bother registering to vote?**

  While it is not a legal requirement to vote in elections, it is a legal requirement to register to vote. Voting is solely your choice and you have the freedom to vote or not.

  Also, the Register of Electors is used by a number organisations to ensure fraud does not occur or money laundering, you may find yourself turned down by letting or estate agents if your name does not appear on the Register of Electors, these organisations know it is a legal require to register and if they haven’t it may be you fail in their checks.

  In the future banks and other large companies will see blanks in your registration history and this can lead to problems. It only takes around five minutes to complete your registration on the portal and it could save massive amounts of time in the future as you can’t back date your registration history.

  This is different to junk mail where you can opt out of the version those companies and information is listed below on Open Register and opting out of it.

- **If I only register to vote at my home address outside of York, how do I still vote?**

  If you don’t wish to return home to vote in person, you may apply to vote either by post or appoint a proxy to vote for you.

  If you arrange a postal vote, your local council will send you the ballot paper via the Royal Mail about two weeks before the election date, as long as you complete and return by day of the election, your vote will count.

  If you don’t wish to vote by post, you can arrange for a relative or friend to vote for you at your normal polling station at home, this is a proxy vote. They receive a special poll card they must take to the polling station.

  Your local council can arrange either of these, their website will have forms to download, complete and return to them.

  Do beware that there is a deadline to apply for a postal vote and a proxy vote, applications must be received by your council no later than 12 working days before the election for a postal vote and 6 working days for a proxy vote.
• I am registered to vote in York and don’t know where my polling station is?

About three weeks before any election the Returning Officer will send you a poll card that confirms you are registered to vote and this card includes the address of polling station.

You don’t need to take the poll card to the polling station, but it does help, as a poll card is to only inform you that there is an election, the date of the election, the location of the polling station and that you may vote.

If you haven’t received a poll card, you should contact Electoral Services on 01904 551007 or email student.register@york.gov.uk and provide your name and full address and a member of the team will check you are registered to vote and which polling station you must attend.

• There is a polling station located in my college; can I just call in there?

Only if it is the polling station for the area you resided, which your poll card will confirm. If you live outside of the area (called a polling district) you can not vote at any other station than the one designated for your polling district.

Your name only appears on the Register of Electors for your designated polling station.

Staff at any polling station will be able to direct you to actual polling station if you provide your address.

• How do I know who to vote for?

It is solely you choice who you vote for and you must not allow anyone to mark your ballot paper on your behalf unless they are a legally appointed proxy for you.

All political parities produce manifestos, which they publish on their websites, which outline their policies. Most parties undertake canvassing and leaflet drops as do independent candidates who are standing.

There is often Hustings where candidates debate and take part in an Question Time, all of these will help you make your decision.